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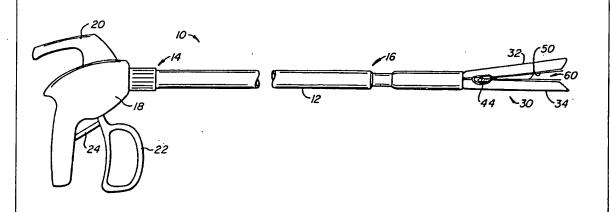
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(57) Abstract

Methods and devices are disclosed for performing laparoscopic gastroplasty for the treatment of morbid obesity. The method utilizes a stapling device (10) and a nasogastric tube (70) for positioning the stapling device (10). A non-absorbable staple support strip (50) is to form and support a passage between a proximal pouch and a distal region in the stomach.